

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 14, wherein the saccharide compound is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ a monosaccharide of 5 or 6 carbons, a disaccharide ~~consisting made of~~ monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons, and a polysaccharide ~~consisting made of~~ monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the polysaccharide contains linear, unbranched chains.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 14, wherein the saccharide compound is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ an alkylated monosaccharide of 5 or 6 carbons, an alkylated disaccharide ~~consisting made of~~ alkylated monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons, and a polysaccharide ~~consisting made of~~ alkylated monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 14, wherein the monosaccharide alcohol has 5 or 6 carbons.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 14, wherein the protein is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ an antibody, a soluble receptor, and a soluble part of a receptor that contains the receptor's ligand binding domain.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the protein is an antibody.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the antibody is provided in an egg preparation.

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 14, wherein the protein is an antibody produced in an egg and the liquid suspension is an egg liquid suspension.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the egg liquid suspension is spray dried.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a product containing a protein with a specific binding activity, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a solid composition ~~that comprises a solid~~ comprising a protein with a specific binding activity and at least one saccharide compound prepared by mixing the protein and the saccharide in a liquid suspension and drying the suspension, wherein the saccharide compound is selected from a monosaccharide, a disaccharide, a polysaccharide, an alkylated monosaccharide, an alkylated disaccharide, an alkylated polysaccharide, a monosaccharide alcohol, and an alkylated monosaccharide alcohol ~~according to claim 1 wherein the solid comprises a protein with a specific binding activity and a saccharide compound;~~ and

exposing the solid composition to steam at a binding-activity-destroying temperature, wherein the protein in the composition loses less of its binding activity in comparison to a control protein that is not mixed and dried with said saccharide ~~exposed to the same conditions except that it is not heat stabilized as provided in claim 1.~~

15. (canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein at least 20% of the specific binding activity of the heat-stabilized protein is retained after being exposed to steam at the binding-activity-destroying temperature.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the product containing a protein with a specific binding activity is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ a human food product, a non-human animal feed product, a human dietary or nutritional supplement, a non-human animal dietary or nutritional supplement, a pharmaceutical product, and a cosmetic product.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the product is an animal feed product.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the animal feed product is a feed pellet.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the method for producing the product is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ a steam pelleting method, an extrusion method, and a method that employs an expander or compactor.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A composition comprising a product obtained by the method of claim 14.

24. (New) A method for producing a product containing a protein with a specific binding activity, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a solid composition comprising an antibody and at least one saccharide compound prepared by mixing an egg containing an antibody produced therein with at least one saccharide compound to form an egg liquid suspension and drying the suspension, wherein the saccharide compound is selected from a monosaccharide, a disaccharide, a polysaccharide, an alkylated monosaccharide, an alkylated disaccharide, an alkylated polysaccharide, a monosaccharide alcohol, and an alkylated monosaccharide alcohol; and

exposing the solid composition to a binding-activity-destroying temperature, wherein the antibody in the composition loses less of its binding activity in comparison to a control antibody provided in an egg that is not mixed and dried with said saccharide.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the saccharide compound is selected from a monosaccharide of 5 or 6 carbons, a disaccharide made of monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons, and a polysaccharide made of monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons.
26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the polysaccharide contains linear, unbranched chains.
27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the saccharide compound is selected from an alkylated monosaccharide of 5 or 6 carbons, an alkylated disaccharide made of alkylated monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons, and a polysaccharide made of alkylated monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons.
28. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the monosaccharide alcohol has 5 or 6 carbons.
29. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the egg liquid suspension is spray dried.
30. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the binding-activity-destroying temperature to which the composition is exposed is at least 70°C.
31. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein at least 20% of the specific binding activity of the heat-stabilized egg antibody is retained after being exposed to the binding-activity-destroying temperature.
32. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the product is selected from a human food product, a non-human animal feed product, a human dietary or nutritional supplement, a non-human animal dietary or nutritional supplement, a pharmaceutical product, and a cosmetic product.
33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the product is an animal feed product.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the animal feed product is a feed pellet.
35. (New) A composition comprising a product obtained by the method of claim 24.